

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00  
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DLOS-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05  
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /121 W  
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R 251350Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3445  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USEC BRUSSELS 1525  
OECD PARIS 2255

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1447

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EFIS, PLOR, UR, NO  
SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF NORWEGIAN/SOVIET FISHERY TALKS

REF: OSLO 521

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. NORWEGIAN PRESS REPORTED ON MARCH 23 THAT A NORWEGIAN DELEGATION  
LED BY LOS MINISTER EVENSEN WILL GO TO MOSCOW ON MARCH 24 FOR 5 DAYS  
TO RESUME TALKS WITH SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV ON FISHING IN  
THE NORWEGIAN/SOVIET MARITIME BOUNDARY AREA AND ON THE DIVISION OF  
THIRD COUNTRY FISHING QUOTAS IN THE BARENTS AND NORWEGIAN SEAS.  
ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS, EVENSEN SAID HE RECEIVED THE  
INVITATION ON MARCH 22 TO COME TO MOSCOW AND ACCEPTED THE FIRST  
ALTERNATIVE DATES OFFERED BECAUSE "THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO BE  
CONCLUDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" AND IT WAS URGENT TO FIND A  
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SOLUTION." AFTENPOSTEN, NORWAY'S LARGEST, MOST INFLUENTIAL  
DAILY, SAYS THAT THE CHOICE OF MOSCOW RATHER THAN OSLO AS  
THE SITE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS PROBABLY REFLECTS A SOMEWHAT  
"CHILLY" SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD NORWAY AS A RESULT OF NORWEGIAN  
EXPULSION OF SIX SOVIETS FOR SPYING IN JANUARY (OSLO 521).

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2. COMMENT: NORWAY HAD EXPECTED THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS IN MOSCOW IN DECEMBER TO BE RESUMED IN OSLO IN EARLY JANUARY. THIS DATE SLIPPED WHEN ISHKOV WAS ALLEGED TO BE SICK, ALTHOUGH HE LATER TURNED UP IN BRUSSELS. FOLLOWING NORWEGIAN EXPULSION OF SIX SOVIETS FOR SPYING IN LATE JANUARY, NOTHING WAS HEARD FROM THE USSR ABOUT RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL ISHKOV MENTIONED SOVIET PLANS TO CONTINUE THEM WHILE HE WAS IN BRUSSELS IN MID-FEBRUARY. FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS, EVENSEN HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN TALKS IN GENEVA ON LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE ISSUES IN WHICH THE SOVIETS PARTICIPATED, ALTHOUGH THEY APPARENTLY MENTIONED NOTHING ABOUT RESUMING THEIR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIM.

3. EVENSEN'S REMARKS ABOUT THE URGENCY OF REACHING AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR AND HIS HASTE IN ACCEPTING THE INVITATION TO MOSCOW COULD WELL BE THE WRONG TACTIC FOR OPENING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. THE NORWEGIANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PLAY DOWN THEIR EARLIER ENTHUSIASM FOR AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON A BOUNDARY. THEY HAVE SOUGHT RECENTLY TO PERSUADE MOSCOW THAT THEY NOW SEE LESS URGENCY IN DEALING WITH BOUNDARY MATTERS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE NEED FOR A TEMPORARY AGREEMENT TO CONTROL FISHING IN THE BOUNDARY AREA PENDING EVENTUAL DELIMITATION OF THE BOUNDARY ITSELF. THE DECISION TO PLAY DOWN THE NEED FOR EARLY BOUNDARY DELIMITATION FOLLOWS SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO BUDGE FROM A SECTOR LINE IN THE LAST ROUND OF BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS AND NORWAY'S DESIRE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF OTHER OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS THEY HAVE

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WITH THE SOVIETS. AT THE SAME TIME THE LABOR GOVERNMENT WANTS A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT ON FISHING ISSUES BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER TO HELP WIN BACK NORTHERN FISHERMEN AND FISHERY INTERESTS WHICH BOLTED THE PARTY AFTER THE 1972 EEC REFERENDUM.

4. EVENSEN HIMSELF IS EAGER TO GAIN A FISHING AGREEMENT TO REPAIR HIS SAGGING POLITICAL STANDING, WHICH WAS DAMAGED BY STATEMENTS HE MADE AFTER A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WAS ACCUSED IN JANUARY OF SPYING FOR THE USSR. EVENSEN'S CABINET COLLEAGUES REPROVED HIM COLLECTIVELY FOR HIS SUGGESTIONS THAT HE HAD LONG SUSPECTED THE ACCUSED. HOWEVER, THE REASONS FOR EVENSEN'S PERSONAL ARDOR FOR AN EARLY FISHERY AGREEMENT ARE NO DOUBT APPARENT TO HIS SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS.

5. NORWAY AND THE USSR AGREED IN DECEMBER ON OVERALL QUOTAS FOR COD AND FOR HADDOCK FOR THIRD COUNTRY FISHING IN THE NORWEGIAN AND BARENTS SEAS. HOWEVER, THEY DID NOT AGREE ON HOW MUCH OF THOSE QUOTAS COULD BE OFFERED THIRD COUNTRIES BY

NORWAY AND HOW MUCH BY THE USSR. AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT IS  
ESSENTIAL BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES FOR  
RECIPROCAL FISHING CAN BE CONCLUDED, ESPECIALLY SINCE  
NORWAY UNDERSTANDS THE USSR OFFERED TO THE EEC VIRTUALLY  
THE ENTIRE THIRD COUNTRY QUOTA FOR COD IT SHARES WITH  
NORWAY. END CONFIDENTIAL  
ANDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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